

Land Stewardship Committee Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2009, 4:00 PM

Acton Town Hall

Present: Bob Guba, Philip Keyes, Peggy Liversidge (minute-taker), Jim Snyder-Grant (chair), Tom Tidman
Guest: Dean Charter

Minutes: The December minutes were approved.

Laminator: Relative to Bob's e-mailed suggestion that we purchase a laminator to deal with our periodic need to laminate kiosk notices, Tom noted that the Health Department has one that we could use.

Chain saw training session: Dean Charter will lead a training session about chain saw use on Friday, January 23, at 1:00. The group will gather at the DPW building on Forest Street.

Rules and regulations update: Several changes were suggested to the document that Jim, Joan, and Bettina have drawn up: On point 11 it was suggested that horse riders not be required to remove horse droppings (because, it was stated, they break down more quickly than dog droppings and are less offensive), and it was noted that neither NARA Park nor the Great Hill playing field are technically conservation properties. On point 13 it was suggested that several specific examples of materials that should not be disposed of on conservation land be noted—specifically Christmas trees, grass clippings, and potted plants.

LSCom chair task list: Jim has come up with a list of a few dozen tasks that he, as chair, does on a regular or occasional basis. He would like to discuss the possibility that at least some of these could be taken over by other stewards. Attendance at today's meeting was too small to allow much discussion, but Jim did note that one of his biggest concerns is about upkeep of the parcel-by-parcel major-projects list, which has not been updated since the last committee discussion of it two years ago. Better list upkeep might be useful especially when trying to come up with ideas for Eagle Scout and other volunteer projects. However, he also noted that Bob has kept track of some elements of this list while managing various construction and maintenance projects.

Robbins Mill Pond trail grant reimbursement: Philip questioned whether we had been reimbursed by the Recreational Trails Program for expenses incurred in the construction of the geoweb trail at Robbins Mill Pond. He reminded us that the deadline for applying for reimbursement is October 2009. Tom said that reimbursement had been received from the state for the first part of the trail construction, but that it was very helpful to be reminded of the October deadline because there are two more Eagle Scout projects lined up for 2009 to complete the trail. Tom will need to spend Town money on the remaining materials and get reimbursed by October.

Arboretum trail and boardwalk ideas: Tom stated that the Friends of the Acton Arboretum group would welcome ideas from stewards about (1) the type of boardwalk to use when the present wooden bog boardwalk needs to be replaced (perhaps a metal grid material that would allow light to penetrate below it); and (2) what might be done on the 11-acre parcel of marshy land donated several years ago by Mary Donald.

Acton Town Board Volunteer Fair: A gathering to give town boards and committees an opportunity to explain their work to potential volunteers is scheduled for Wednesday

evening, February 11, from 7:00 to 9:00 at Town Hall. Jim plans to attend; other stewards are welcome to join him.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 18, at 4:00 PM.